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Anthony J. Romanello, ICMA-CM

November 8, 2010

Submitted Online (www.regulations.gov)

Water Docket

Environmental Protection Agency

Mailcode: 28221T

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20460

Submitted by Email (vabaytmdl@dcr.virginia.gov)

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Commonwealth of Virginia

203 Governor Street

Richmond, VA 23219

SUBJECT: EPA Water Docket ID No. EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736, Draft Total Maximum Daily Load ("TMDL") for the Chesapeake Bay; and Virginia Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan ("WIP")

To Whom It May Concern:

Stafford County staff has reviewed EPA's Draft TMDL for the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's WIP and appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on these documents. The County owns and operates a municipal separate storm sewer system ("MS4") within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This drainage system conveys and discharges stormwater pursuant to a state-issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit. To the extent that our MS4 conveys nutrients and sediments covered by the Draft TMDL, those pollutants originate predominantly from air deposition, fertilizer use or other third party sources, and the MS4 is simply a conduit.

Our most significant concerns with EPA's Draft TMDL and Virginia's WIP relate to the lack of transparency in this regulatory process, particularly regarding lack of disclosure and analysis of costs related to urban stormwater. We understand that in other EPA documents urban stormwater costs for the Bay TMDL have been estimated at an annual cost of \$7.9 billion. Similarly, we understand that the Center for Watershed Protection has reported costs on the order of \$88,000 per acre for urban retrofits. To translate these types of costs estimates to the household level, last month a national engineering firm reported to the Virginia Municipal

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Stormwater Association ("VAMSA") that EPA's Draft TMDL's costs may be on the order of \$700 to \$1,800 per household per year, for urban stormwater management alone, during the 15-year implementation period. Obviously, costs in that range are extremely high if not completely unaffordable. It is also unclear at this time whether any additional Federal or State funding will be provided to localities to assist with implementation of TMDL related programs.

Finally, we are concerned that there may be computer modeling deficiencies which are documented in the comments of VAMSA. We request that EPA fully consider and address all of VAMSA's comments, which we generally support and hereby incorporate by reference as if fully set forth herein.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment. If you have additional questions or need further information, please contact Steven Hubble at 540-658-8650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Romanello", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony J. Romanello, ICMA-CM
County Administrator

cc: Mr. Alan Pollock, VA DEQ (alan.pollock@deq.virginia.gov)
Mr. Russ Perkinson, VA DCR (russ.perkinson@dcv.virginia.gov)